



State of New Jersey

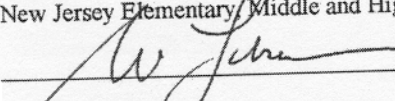
Department of Education

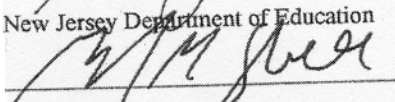
Dr. William L. Librera
Commissioner

James E. McGreevey
Governor

June 19, 2003

To: Chief School Administrators
New Jersey Elementary Middle and High Schools

Fr:  Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Education

 Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Re: New Legislation Affecting New Jersey Schools

On December 12, 2002, Governor James E. McGreevey signed the New Jersey School Integrated Pest Management Act of 2002. This new law requires all New Jersey schools to implement a school integrated pest management (IPM) policy by June 2004. The IPM policy is intended to reduce the risk associated with pesticide exposure to students as well as other school staff, in and around New Jersey schools, and provides a mechanism to enhance environmental stewardship in the school setting.

Integrated Pest Management is a form of pest control that looks at problems in a holistic light that considers all possible forms of pest management. Pest management should include various methods such as monitoring of the pest population, increased sanitation, proper solid waste control, structural maintenance, physical, biological and chemical controls. IPM is a sustainable approach to pest management that uses the appropriate technology in a way that minimizes health, environmental and economic risks.

To assist you in complying with this new law, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will develop and make available to all schools, a model IPM policy as well as a model IPM plan. These models may be adopted as your school policy and plan, or modified to reflect your individual wants and needs. The models will contain the New Jersey State minimum standards or requirements and may be strengthened, but not weakened, by individual schools.

In an effort to ensure that the model plan will be as useful as possible, NJDEP has designed a survey to gather data that will assist in the model plan development.

The survey will be conducted online at the NJDEP web site. A separate email with directions for accessing the survey web page will be sent to the Chief School Administrator (CSA) for each school. The CSA should complete the survey with assistance from other personnel if needed.

This survey is being undertaken in an effort to reduce the risk we all face with regard to pesticide exposure during our hours spent in and around our schools. Your immediate and considered attention to this matter is of paramount importance. Only with the assistance of each Chief School Administrator will the effort to make the model policy and model plan New Jersey specific be successful.

In field testing, the average survey completion time was 30 - 40 minutes. We would like to thank you for your timely attention to this survey. Understanding that each of us has a different set of priorities, and, in order to extend you as much time as possible, the survey will continue through the end of September 2003.